

Introducing ...



National Response Framework



Homeland
Security

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NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

What Is the *National Response Framework*?

The purpose of the *National Response Framework* is to establish a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response.

The *Framework* presents an overview of key response principles, roles and structures that guide the national response. It describes how communities, States, the Federal Government and private-sector and nongovernmental partners apply these principles for a coordinated, effective national response. And, it describes special circumstances where the Federal Government exercises a larger role, including incidents where Federal interests are involved and catastrophic incidents where a State would require significant support. Its real value, however, is in how these elements come together and are implemented by first responders, decisionmakers and supporting entities to provide a unified national response.

How Did the *Framework* Evolve?

In recent years, our Nation has faced an unprecedented series of disasters and emergencies, and as a result our national response structures have evolved and improved to meet these threats. The *National Response Framework* replaces the former *National Response Plan (NRP)*.

This *Framework* represents a natural evolution of the national response architecture. Although the NRP was called a plan, it was actually a framework written to guide the integration of community, State, tribal and Federal response efforts. Adopting the term “framework” within the title now aligns the document with its purpose.

Who Needs To Know About This *Framework*?

The *Framework* is written for senior elected and appointed leaders, such as Federal agency heads, State Governors, tribal leaders, mayors or city managers – those who have a responsibility to provide for effective incident management.

At the same time, it informs emergency management practitioners, explaining the operating structures and tools used routinely by first responders and emergency managers at all levels of government.

The *Framework* document is richly augmented with online access to supporting documents, further training and a source for exchanging lessons learned.

An effective, unified national response requires layered, mutually supporting capabilities.

The *Framework* incorporates public and private-sector participation at all levels, from Federal agencies to the State and community level, and also emphasizes the importance of personal preparedness by individuals and their families.



Sharing Resources and Best Practices

Looking for additional information?

The *National Response Framework (NRF)* Resource Center provides ready access to information and tools needed for all response partners to fulfill their roles under the *Framework*.

Key Documents

- **National Response Framework (NRF):** Delineates our Nation's response doctrine, responsibilities and structures.
- **National Incident Management System (NIMS):** Establishes a systematic approach for managing incidents nationwide.
- **ESF, Support and Incident Annexes:** Provide concept of operations, procedures and structures for achieving response objectives.
- **National Preparedness Guidelines:** Contain the national preparedness vision and 15 National Planning Scenarios that focus on contingency planning.
- **Response Partner Guides:** Provide a ready reference of key roles and actions for community, State, tribal, Federal and private-sector response partners.



References

- Authorities and References
- Stafford Act Support Overview
- Federal-to-Federal Support Overview
- Task Books/Position Descriptions
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Glossary of Terms/Acronyms
- Additional Links

Learning Resources

- Job Aids
- Training Courses
- Online Videos

Comprehensive Information With Just One Click

<http://www.fema.gov/NRF>



A Framework for Sharpening National Response

The *National Response Framework* is a guide to how our Nation conducts all-hazards incident management. The term “framework” accurately aligns the document title with its intended purpose.

Guided by the input and help of many hundreds of stakeholders, the *Framework* represents a natural evolution of the national response architecture. Specifically, the *Framework*:

- Reflects lessons learned and defines the core principles for managing incidents.
- Broadens the focus from a purely Federal plan to one that is truly national.
- Methodically describes the who, what and how of emergency preparedness and response.
- Articulates the five key principles of response doctrine.

Response Doctrine: Key Principles

- **Engaged Partnerships.** Leaders at all levels must communicate and actively support engaged partnerships to develop shared goals and align capabilities so that none allows the other to be overwhelmed in times of crisis.
- **Tiered Response.** Incidents must be managed at the lowest possible jurisdictional level and supported by additional response capabilities when needed.
- **Scalable, Flexible and Adaptable Operational Capabilities.** As incidents change in size, scope and complexity, the response must adapt to meet requirements.
- **Unity of Effort Through Unified Command.** Effective unified command is indispensable to all response activities and requires clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each participating organization.
- **Readiness To Act.** Effective incident response requires readiness to act balanced with an understanding of risk. From individuals, families and communities to local, State and Federal agencies, national response depends on the instinct and ability to act.

National Response Framework Components

The *Framework's* clear, simple writing style makes the serious work of incident management understandable for government and business executives as well as emergency management practitioners. The *Framework* is structured as follows:

Chapter I: Roles and Responsibilities

Sharpens the focus on who is involved with emergency response management at the community, State, tribal and Federal levels.

Chapter II: Response Actions

Describes what we as a Nation collectively do under the *Framework*: prepare, respond and recover.

Chapter III: Incident Management

Explains how the National Incident Management System concepts and structures are applied to achieve our incident management objectives.

Chapter IV: Planning

Explains the importance of planning within the broader national preparedness strategy and summarizes national planning system elements.

Chapter V: Additional Resources

Summarizes the content and plan for the online NRF Resource Center.

